AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1   1 - 38. (Canceled).

1   39.   (Currently amended) A method of satisfying a resource request in a computer

2   system for configuring systems ~~using a resource comprising a combination of resources~~, the

3   method comprising:

4   instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model,

5   wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of

6   elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model

7   hierarchy;

8   (a) examining the configuration instance for ~~an element~~ <u>one of the elements</u> offering a

9   resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by

10   at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a

11   ~~combination of multiple like~~ <u>pool of</u> resources;

12   (b) selecting the element when the resource <u>offered by the element</u> has not been

13   previously consumed;

14   (c) selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing

15   elements satisfy the resource request; and

16   (d) repeating (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource

17   request.

1   40.   Canceled.

1   41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein each element offering a

2   resource that includes a pool of resources is a structural superior in the structural model

3   hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1   42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein a plurality of the

2   resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

1   43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein one of the resources in

2   the pool of resources satisfies the resource request.

1   44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the element offering the

2   resource includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to

3   provide the requested resource.

4   45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the combination of

5   multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element.

1   46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein each element offering a

2   resource includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in

3   the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1   47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein a plurality of the

2   resources inherited from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.

1   48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein one of the resources

2   inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.

1   49.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the configuration

2   instance is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance

3   includes an existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.

1   50.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for configuring systems comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory coupled to the processor;

4   a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a

5   structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;

6   a configuration engine, stored in the memory and executable by the processor, to satisfy a

7   resource request using a resource ~~comprising a combination of resources~~ <u>offered</u>

8 by one of the elements, wherein the configuration engine includes code

9 executable by the processor for:

10 instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;

11 (a) examining the configuration instance for ~~an element~~ one of the elements

12   offering a resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the

13   resource offered by at least one of the elements in the structural model

14   hierarchy represents a ~~combination of multiple like~~ pool of resources;

15 (b) selecting the element when the resource offered by the element has not been

16   previously consumed;

17 (c) selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no

18   existing elements satisfy the resource request; and

19 (d) repeating step (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the

20   resource request.

1 51. Canceled.

1 52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein each element offering a

2 resource that includes a pool of resources is a structural superior in the structural model

3 hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1 53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein a plurality of the

2 resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

1 54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein one of the resources in

2 the pool of resources satisfies the resource request.

1   55.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the element offering the

2 resource includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to

3 provide the requested resource.

4   56.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the combination of

5 multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element

1   57.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein each element offering a

2 resource includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in

3 the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1   58.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein a plurality of the

2 resources inherited from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.

1   59.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein one of the resources

2 inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.

1   60.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the configuration

2 instance is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance

3 includes an existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.

1   61.   (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising code encoded

2 therein and executable by a processor to cause the processor to:

3   instantiate in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model,

4   wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of

5   elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model

6   hierarchy;

7   (a) examine the configuration instance for ~~an element~~ <u>one of the elements</u> offering a

8   resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by

9   at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a

10   ~~combination of multiple like~~ <u>pool of</u> resources;

11   (b) select the element when the resource <u>offered by the element</u> has not been previously

12   consumed;

13   (c) select a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing elements

14   satisfy the resource request; and

15   (d) repeat (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource

16   request.

1   62.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for satisfying a resource request in a computer

2 system for configuring systems using a resource comprising a combination of resources

3 comprising:

4   a processor;

5   a memory coupled to the processor;

6   a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a

7   structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;

8   means for defining a structural model hierarchy and a plurality of resources offered by

9   elements in the structural model hierarchy;

10   means for instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;

11   (a) means for examining the configuration instance for ~~an element~~ <u>one of the elements</u>

12   offering a resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource

13   offered by at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents

14   a ~~combination of multiple like~~ <u>pool of</u> resources;

15   (b) means for selecting the element when the resource <u>offered by the element</u> has not

16   been previously consumed;

17   (c) means for selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no

18   existing elements satisfy the resource request; and

19   (d) means for causing (a) through (d) to search for another element to satisfy the resource

20   request when the element selection does not satisfy the resource request.